Price of Paper.

11. * **Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the price of one ream of paper weighing 6 lbs., 8 lbs. and 10 lbs. which prevailed in the taluks of Parur, Kunnatnad, and Muvattupuzha in the months of Chingom to Vrischigom 1118 ;

(*b*) the average price of paper of the weight referred to in part (*a*) throughout the State on those months ;

(*c*) the quantity of paper available for the rest of the year and necessary for the rest of the year for the use of the public ;

(*d*) whether paper scarcity is increasing day by day ; and

(*e*) whether Government have taken any steps to provide the necessary paper for the public use, and if so, what are the steps taken ?

Dr. H. Parameswaran (*Controller of Stationery and Printing*) : (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) Government have no information.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Government are watching the situation and appropriate steps will be taken in the matter so far as is possible in view of the world shortage of paper.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : The answer to parts (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) of the question is that the Government have no information. May I know whether Government have tried to get any information on the matter ?

Dr. H. Parameswaran : The question has not arisen, Sir.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : Cannot the interpellations sent by the honourable members be considered as matters which should be enquired into ?

Dr. H. Parameswaran : May I make the position clear, Sir? The price of paper varies from day to day. Government know that from various reports. But it is quite a different matter to collect positive and exact figures with regard to these matters covering the many grades of paper. The figures have been wildly varying during the last few months because of the world shortage of paper.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : May I know whether Government are aware that paper is not being sold not only in reams but also in small numbers?

Dr. H. Parameswaran : It is quite possible, Sir. There is acute shortage of paper *everywhere*. It is a world shortage and not peculiar to Travancore alone.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : May I know whether the member is aware that it is elementary courtesy to the honourable members of the House just to make enquiries on matters on which information is required and not seek refuge under such words as "world shortage" and all that.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Dr. H. Parameswaran : Such information as is available is being freely given.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : Will the Government be pleased to provide Punalur paper in those localities also ?

Dr. H. Parameswaran : Yes Sir, if the need arises ?

President : The position is somewhat like this. Sometime ago the Government of India passed an order to the effect that they would reserve 90 per cent. of the paper produced in the country for their own use and only 10 per cent. be left for private consumption. Evidently by an oversight and not remembering that Travancore is not part of British India, the same order was communicated to the Paper Mill in Travancore. The orders were to the effect that 90 per cent. of the paper produced in the Punalur Paper Mills will be taken by the Government of India. The Travancore Government respectfully, but rather firmly, pointed out to the Government of India that there is another Government functioning in Travancore and that this Government propose to take a larger proportion of the paper for its own use. That is how the matter stands. Where that dispute will lead us, we do not know. Due to world shortage of paper the Government of India may request us to spare more paper for war purposes because now paper is required not only for showing the ingenuity of Secretariat clerks in writing essays on various subjects, but also for ammunition purposes, and various other matters of primary necessity for the war. Therefore we cannot use paper as we have been doing till now. Paper is used now for ammunition, for wrapping cartridge cases and for a hundred other matters directly relating to the war so that it is very likely that many newspapers throughout the country will have to be stopped and the Secretariat luxuries will have to be curtailed. But so far as schools and other institutions are concerned, wherever slates can take the place of paper with advantage, slates may be used. I am making the appeal that as little paper should be used in schools and colleges as possible and we shall go back to more ancient times and use more of slates. So far as petitions to Government and Courts are concerned, what should be done is to use both sides for writing. All these ideas will be indicated in a Government order which is now being got ready. I am sure that we may expect in the course of three or four months such acute paper famine throughout the country that paper can be used only as an article of intense luxury.

One other matter may be borne in mind. I understand that in various places like Tanjore, Trichinopoly and Coimbatore, there are people going round and visiting each house asking for rags, and old newspapers being handed over for pulp production. Therefore

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President.]

honourable members of this House might use their powers of persuasion to see that rags and old papers are preserved and not thrown aside; and steps may have to be taken to get these rags for a nominal compensation. There are already a large number of agencies going round each house here collecting rags and old papers.

Copper coins.

12. ***Sahib Bahadur Abdul Tayeb Shaikh Kaderbhoy** (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any such rule for the Divisional Treasuries "that not more than ten rupees worth of copper coins can be issued in a single day in exchange"?

Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : The maximum amount of copper coins that may be issued to any person from any Treasury on a single day has been limited to Rs. 10 as a temporary measure, in view of the scarcity of copper coins at the present time. The Accountant-General has, however, been authorised to relax the limit in individual cases for special recorded reasons.

Taxes for assigned lands.

13. ***Mr. V. Sankara Menon** : Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Cardamom Rules did not permit assignments on payment of a concessional tax of Rs. 1 1/2 per acre in case of occupation of lands with Government permission and on payment of enhanced tax of Rs. 3 per acre in the case of occupation without such permission ?

Mr. K. Kunjan Pillai : Yes

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : May I know whether at the time the rules were passed, Government have encouraged the occupation even without permission ?

Mr. K. Kunjan Pillai : No Sir, Government have never encouraged unauthorised occupations.

President : Does the honourable member mean that people were requested by Government to encroach upon the lands ?

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : Government allowed certain acreage in certain pakuthies.

President : And asked people to enter them ?

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : To cultivate the lands.

President : Lands belonging to whom ?

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : Belonging to Government certainly.

President : What right had they to cultivate an inch more than what they paid for ?

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : The land was not surveyed then.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly